

Provisional Non-Statutory Double Patenting Rejection is Overcome

The Examiner provisionally rejected Claims 48 and 50 under the judicial doctrine of obviousness double patenting over Claims 47 and 49 of co-pending U.S. Application 09/993,777. The Examiner admits that the conflicting claims are not identical, but asserts that they are not patentably distinct.

In response to the Examiner's provisional rejection and solely to expedite the issuance of the subject matter of the present application, the Applicants submit herewith a signed Terminal Disclaimer, and authorize the Commissioner to charge Applicant's Deposit Account No. 19-0365 for the requisite fee.

In view of the above and foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the provisional rejection under the judicial doctrine of obviousness double patenting are respectfully solicited.

No additional fees are believed to arise due to this filing, however, if any additional fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0365.

In view of the above and foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the lone rejection are believed to be in order. The Applicants therefore, believe that the next step in the prosecution of this Application should be in the form of a Notice of Allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner should have any questions regarding this Amendment and/or patent Application, she is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Davis
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No.: 39,161
Telephone No.: (908) 298-2194
e-mail: michael.davis15@spcorp.com

SCHERING-PLOUGH
CORPORATION
Patent Department, K-6-1, 1990
2000 Galloping Hill Road
Kenilworth, New Jersey 07033-0530
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